

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
Monday, February 9, 2015 ADJOURNED to Tuesday, February 10, 2015
DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Kegler, Kochenburger, Marcellino, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Marcellino seconded to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 adjourned to January 29, 2015 meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who abstained.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Martha Kelly, Bundy Lane and speaking for herself and not the Board of Education or its Finance Committee, commented on the per household yearly cost of the sewer project and the inability of some residents to pay forty-seven dollars a year. (Statement attached) Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, posed a number of questions concerning the Master Planning Objectives as described at the February 7, 2015 special meeting and tonight's packet. (Statement attached, supplementary materials included as a communication in the February 23, 2015 packet.)

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, raised a number of items which are of concern to him in the Storrs Center area, including poor sightlines as a result of the snow piles, delivery trucks blocking sections of Storrs Road and the difficulty he has in seeing the center aisle. Ben Wiles, Browns Road, responded to an earlier speaker who insinuated that daycare was a frill. Mr. Wiles noted that replacement of UConn funds by the Town will allow the centers to continue to provide service on a sliding scale there by maintaining economic diversity.

Michael Soares, Dog Lane and member of the Open Space Preservation Committee, the Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee and the Conservation Committee but speaking as a parent whose children attend Community Children's Center stated these early childhood centers provide a sense of community to newcomers and urged the Council's support.

Lane Watson, Lorraine Drive, whose children attended Children's Community Center, reiterated that these centers build community and provide an island of indigenous stability in our changing Town.

Timothy Caouette, South Bedlam Road, whose children attend Willow House spoke in support of funding for the daycare centers commenting that they offer both value and support for working families.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed his Town Manager's Report and reminded members of the approaching Presidents Day Ceremonial Presentation event.

February 10, 2015

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to add to the agenda a discussion of the proposed changes to the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) as outlined by the Town Manager in his report as New Business Item 10.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to move Item 6, Contract between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Administrators' Association, to Item 3a. The motion failed with all in opposition except Ms. Moran.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to add a discussion of the Presidents' Day Ceremonial Presentation as New Business Item 11.

The motion passed unanimously.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson commended the Public Works staff on their snow clearing efforts.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager thanked the Mansfield Downtown Partnership for coordinating last weekend's Winter Fun Week. Mr. Hart noted that specific snow removal costs for Storrs Center will be part of the budget discussion and, in response to a question raised during public comment, stated that all deliveries to CVS should be via Royce Circle.

2. Draft: Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 6:30 PM on February 23, 2015, to solicit public comment regarding the December 2014 public hearing draft of the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan of Conservation and Development.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to schedule a work session following the public hearing on those portions of Mansfield Tomorrow which are the purview of the Council and to request an extension of the comment time from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Codfish Falls Scenic Road Alteration

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, effective February 10, 2015, to authorize the removal of two trees and relocation of a stone wall and fence as depicted on the Guyette Estates Subdivision Plan dated September 25, 2015, revised pursuant to Planning and Zoning Commission conditions as the proposed alterations will not significantly alter the character of the scenic road.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Wassmundt noted that Mr. Bradley's name is Guy, not Gus as it appears in the packet.

4. Requests of Non-Profit Early Childhood Education Centers
Council members discussed the need to examine this request within the larger context of the budget and public policy.
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to table Item 4, Requests of Non-Profit Early Childhood Education Centers to a future date.
The motion to table passed unanimously.
Staff will check to see if Ms. Wassmundt, as the Town Council's representative to Discovery Depot, is a voting member.
5. Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective February 10, 2015, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on February 23, 2015, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed amendments to Sections 173-31 and 173-33 of the Town of Mansfield Code of Ordinances.
Motion passed unanimously.
6. Contract Between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Administrators' Association
Randy Walikonis, Chair of the Mansfield Board of Education, described the changes in the administrators' contract and discussed details of the contract with Council members.
Ms. Wassmundt requested copies of the organizing documents for the Association.

Council members discussed the inclusion of the Director of Information Technology, who is a Mansfield Board of Education employee whose services are shared with the Town, in the Association and the benefits offered as part of that position.
Ms. Moran raised a point of order noting that the approval or rejection of the contract is the subject under consideration not the composition of the membership of the bargaining unit.
Mayor Paterson ruled that the Director of Information Technology Jaime Russell's employment is not part of the discussion, however, it is important, in the future, that the Council have clarification on points of his contract.
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the agreement between the Mansfield Board of Education and the Mansfield Administrative Association.
Motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Raymond and Ms. Wassmundt.
Information will be provided on Mr. Russell's contract.
7. Financial Statements Dated December 31, 2014
Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan reported the Committee has not been able to meet but will hold a special meeting on February 18, 2015.
8. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report FY 2013/14
Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan reported the Committee has not been able to meet but will hold a special meeting on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to table Items 7 and 8 until the February 23, 2015 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Appointment of Subregistrar

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded, effective February 9, 2015, to appoint Mr. Glenn Robert Blumenstein of Potter Funeral Home as a subregistrar for the Town of Mansfield.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Proposed Changes to Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) as Outlined by the Town Manager in the Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Matt Hart outlined the efforts of CCM to create a new tier for new hires modeled after the State's Tier III plan. CCM is asking Mr. Hart in his role as Town Manager to support these efforts. Council members discussed previous failed efforts to affect legislation and additional cost saving reforms such as an increase in the employee contribution rate and the capping of overtime which might be pursued. Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Raymond seconded that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager and encourage the Town Manager to support the Municipal Employees Retirement System reform proposal as outlined in a memorandum by the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and to continue to work with CCM for additional reforms.

Mr. Kochenburger offered a friendly amendment to specifically note that the capping of overtime in the benefit calculation and employee contribution are additional reforms of interest to the Town.

The friendly amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder of the original motion.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Marcellino and Ms. Moran who were in opposition.

11. Discussion of the Presidents' Day Ceremonial Presentation

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to select a committee of Town Council members to serve on the Presidents' Day Ceremonial Presentation Committee. Mr. Kegler, Mr. Shapiro and Ms. Raymond offered to serve with Mr. Kegler acting as Chair.

The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No comments offered.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REQUESTS

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. Community Children's Center (1/22/15)

13. R. Miller/B. Gore (01/29/15)

14. Windham Invitational Special Olympic Swim Meet

15. E. Paterson/J. Goodwin re: University of Connecticut Draft Campus Master Plan
16. Eastern Highlands Health District re: 2015-2016 District Budget 201
17. Government Finance Officers Association re: Distinguished Budget Presentation Award – Mr. Hart noted that the comments offered in the report will be discussed at a future Finance Committee meeting. Mr. Hart commended the budget team for their work.
18. Rep. Gregg Haddad – 2015 Major Issues Report
19. The Mansfield Minute – February 2015
20. Senior Sparks – February 2015

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

Per Ms. Wassmundt's request, information on the Four Corners sewer alignment route to the UConn treatment plan will be added to the next agenda.

Mr. Kochenburger requested that IT staff look at ways to make the Council agenda and packet easier to access on the Town's website.

The Director of Information Technology's contract will be discussed at a future meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

February 10, 2015